

BOB FELLER'S ★ ALL-STARS ★

PRESS RELEASE

Satchel Paige, the old wizard of colored baseball, virtually is overshadowed by outstanding players on the aggregation of "All-Stars" he has organized to oppose Bob Feller's All-Stars on a nationwide tour.

Paige's roster reads like a "Who's Who in Negro Baseball." From the veteran righthand pitching marvel, whose name is legendary on two continents, to Manager Frank Duncan, who is in his 27th season with the famed Kansas City Monarchs, the club represents the best in Negro baseball.

Four other members of the Monarchs, champions of the Negro American League, will barnstorm with Paige. They are Hilton Smith, clever right-hand pitcher; Henry Thompson, speedy second baseman; Willard (Home Run) Brown, center fielder, and Johnny (Buck) O'Neil, flashy, dependable, hard-hitting first baseman. O'Neil captured the Negro American League batting title with a .350 average, topping Brown by two points.

Three members of the Newark Eagles, champions of the Negro National League, are with Paige's All-Stars. The trio includes Monty Irvin, 27-year-old former Lincoln University football, basket ball and baseball star; Leonard Pearsen, 6-foot, 2-inch, 210-pound first baseman, and Max Manning, also a former Lincoln U. luminary. Manning is a bespectacled right-hand pitcher who won the NNL championship with an 11-1 record. Irvin, incidentally, won the most valuable player award in the Puerto Rican Winter League last season.

The Philadelphia Stars have sent two crack players in Pitcher Barney Brown, a southpaw, and Frank Austin, Panama-born shortstop. Brown, a sandlot product of Hartsville, S.C. - home town of Bobo Newsom of the Feller All-Stars - has only 155 pounds on his 5-foot 11-inch frame but has a respected fast ball. Austin hit .313 this year after compiling .354 and .390 averages the two previous seasons. Austin's .390 hitting in 1944 won the NNL batting championship, the only time a rookie ever captured the crown.

Sammy Jethroe, Cleveland center fielder, is a two-time NAL batting champion, hitting .350 in 1944 and .393 in 1945. Howard Easterling, Homestead Grays' third baseman, returned to baseball in midseason after three years of military service in the Pacific and batted .321 in 42 games.

Quincy Troupe, catcher-manager of the Cleveland club, has toured with Paige previously. He was fifth among NAL batters this season with a .313 average.

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